

Appln. No.: 09/963,324
Amendment Dated August 17, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 3, 2005

MATP-611US

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**Remarks/Arguments:**

Claims 1-14 and 16-18 are pending in the above-identified application.

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendment of claim 14 and the cancellation of claim 15. Basis for the amendment to claim 14 may be found in paragraph [0044].

Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 13-15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Luchaup. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claims 1, 13 and 17 and the cancellation of claim 15. In particular, Luchaup does not disclose or suggest "compressing the utterance" or "decompressing the utterance" as required by amended claim 17. Claims 1 and 13 include similar recitations. Luchaup concerns a remote control device that receives voice commands and converts them into voice signals. The voice signals are sent to a host system which converts the voice signals to commands and sends the commands back to the remote control device. The remote control then transmits controls signals to an appliance based on the received command signal. (See Abstract).

Luchaup, however, does not disclose or suggest compressing the audio signal before sending it to the host device or decompressing the audio signal at the host device before converting the audio signal to a command. This provides the subject invention with an advantage as the compressed signal may be transmitted in a shorter time interval. Accordingly, claims 1, 13 and 17 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Luchaup. Claims 3, 7 and 8 depend from claim 1 and claim 14 depends from claim 13. Accordingly, these claims are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Luchaup for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 13.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Luchaup and Douglas. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claim 1. Luchaup is described above. Douglas concerns a voice-actuated, speaker dependent control system for a hospital bed that permits a patient to control the bed and room environment functions through voice commands. The control devices described in Douglas are contained in a controller card that is connected to the computer. (See col. 4, lines 12-20 and col. 4, lines 47-55). The microphone is connected to the voice card in the computer via a standard phone jack. (See Col.

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6, lines 29-31). As both the microphone and the relay devices are physically connected to the computer, there is no need to compress the voice signals. Indeed, Douglas does not disclose or suggest any compression of the voice signals. Accordingly, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Luchaup and Douglas and claim 2, which depends from claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Luchaup and Douglas for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 4-6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Luchaup and Mingot et al. This ground for rejection is also overcome by the amendments to claim 1. Luchaup is described above. Mingot et al. generate a signal for controlling an apparatus corresponding to a word or group of words picked up by a microphone in a remote control device. The elements required to convert the speech signals and generate the signal for controlling the apparatus are located within the apparatus. (See col. 3, lines 37-39 and Fig. 3). Mingot et al. do not disclose or suggest any compression or decompression of the audio signal and, so, can not provide the material that is missing from Luchaup. Accordingly, claims 4-6 and 9 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Luchaup and Mingot et al.

Claims 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Luchaup and Kolde et al. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claims 16 and 18. In particular, neither Luchaup, Kolde et al. nor their combination disclose or suggest:

- compressing the utterance;
- converting the compressed utterance into a modulated transmission signal;
- receiving the transmission signal at a relay unit the relay unit being separate from the remote control unit and the electronic device;
- recovering the compressed utterance from the modulated transmission signal;
- decompressing the compressed utterance to provide audio signals representing the utterance;

As set forth in claim 18, claim 16 includes a similar recitation.

Luchaup is described above. Kolde et al. describe a system that provides foreign language support for a remote control device. In particular they describe a system in which a description of an interactive option on the remote control may be provided visually or audibly to

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in the language of the user. (See Abstract). Kolde et al. do not disclose or suggest any compression or decompression of the audio signal. Accordingly, Kolde et al. can not provide the material that is missing from Luchaup. Thus, Claims 16 and 18 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Luchaup and Kolde et al.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication in the Office Action that claims 10-12 would be allowed if rewritten to include the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 10 has been so amended and, because claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 10, claims 10-12 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-9 and 13, 14 and 16-18 and the objections to claims 10-12.

Respectfully submitted,


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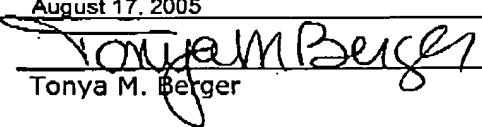
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